

# OUR·VILLAGE·VOICE

## MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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### *New Beginnings....*

It is always great to begin a new year, with personal resolutions and fresh ideas for the future. I am pleased to start the decade here in St. Louis as MSB's new superintendent! Naturally there are challenges of a new job, but along with those challenges I am enjoying getting to know the staff and students here at MSB. Our mission is an important one with our daily goal to provide quality services for Missouri's visually impaired students. Unfortunately, the new decade is beginning with financial challenges state and nation-wide. Public schools, including MSB, are currently faced with financial challenges that are unprecedented. As we begin 2010, please join with me in renewed commitment to providing quality educational services for our visually impaired children...our citizens of the new decade!

Sincerely,

*Patricia L. Yocum, Superintendent*



### ***January Employee of the Month***

Yvonne Ali, supervisor of Missouri's Instructional Resource Center at MSB, has been named DESE Employee of the Month for January, 2010.

Ms. Ali is responsible for registering Missouri students who are legally blind and obtaining textbooks and educational materials for their use in their local school districts. She has made procedural changes to expedite students' access to learning materials and increased the number of registered students through outreach efforts and tracking changes.

An ex officio trustee of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), Ms. Ali has been invited to develop training for new trustees. She frequently hosts and coordinates professional conferences and presents on a variety of topics related to vision, sensory learning and learning media.

## CALENDAR

Wrestling Meet at Kentucky	Jan. 8-10
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Holiday	Jan. 18
NCASB Wrestling & Cheerleading Meet	Jan. 22-24
Achievement Assembly	Jan. 28
Lincoln's Birthday	Feb. 12
Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
Presidents Day - No School	Feb. 15
Braille Challenge	Feb. 18



## STARS, STEP, Sports

Lighthouse for the Blind and St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired are offering **STARS** (Specialized Technology and Adaptive Resources for Students) again this year.

STARS is for visually impaired students ages 6-15 who need assistance with activities of daily living. Students will meet one Saturday a month.

Prospective students and their parents are invited to an open house at the Society building, 8770 Manchester, St. Louis, Tue., Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served. Call

314-301-7383 for reservations.

The Summer Transition and Employment Program (**STEP**) will be held June 6-15. STEP is an intensive program for visually impaired 14-21 year olds which emphasizes independence, transition, organizational skills and career exploration. Call Kevin Hollinger, director, 636-578-0124.

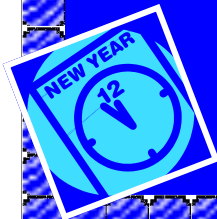
**Sports Camp 2010** will be held June 11-13 at Webster University. This free residential camp is open to visually impaired youth 12-18. Call Angie Yorke, 314-423-4333, ext. 132.



**Winners!** MSB students Cindy Johnson and Justin Thompkins pose with a giant bowling pin at the Special Olympics Missouri state bowling tournament held in Joplin Nov. 20-22. Justin won a gold medal and Cindy took silver. Other MSB winners were Tyler Baty and Emily Pope, gold; Jesse Finnell and Sah'mara Perry-Luckett, silver, and Courtney Baty, bronze. MSB teachers attending the meet were Matt Johnson, Jenny Karnes and Julia Graudin.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 3	MARVALINE COLLINS
JAN. 7	RENA BIRCHFIELD
JAN. 15	VANESSA PRUITT
JAN. 17	MICHELLE DAILY
	MICHAEL DEHEER
	SHARON PHELPS
	GARRETT THURMAN
JAN. 19	AVIVA PAGE
JAN. 25	MARGE (ANTHONY) WINSTON
JAN. 28	ELAINE BIDSTRUP
JAN. 30	CINDY DIGGS
	DENISE LOWE
	DESIREE MORRIS
	ANGIE THOMPSON



HAVE A GREAT DAY!

## Publications for Parents

Two booklets are now available for parents of children with disabilities. *The Parent's Guide to Special Education* provides information about the identification process and provision of educational services in a user-friendly format. The booklet can be downloaded free from

[dese.mo.gov/divspced/Compliance/spcedguidance.html](http://dese.mo.gov/divspced/Compliance/spcedguidance.html).

Also available is the newly developed *Parents' Bill of Rights*, which lists ten legal rights of parents of a child with a disability. This document is available at [dese.mo.gov/divspced/Compliance/parentbillofrights.html](http://dese.mo.gov/divspced/Compliance/parentbillofrights.html).